

CUSTOMER NO. 31013

[Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/943,650]
177079-00162WS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Sears et al.

Serial No.: To be assigned

Filed: July 8, 2003 (herewith)

For: **ALKYLENE OXIDE MODIFIED
HARDWOOD CELLULOSE**

Prior U.S. Application:

In re Application of: Sears et al.

Serial No.: 09/943,650

Filed: August 31, 2001

For: **ALKYLENE OXIDE MODIFIED HARDWOOD CELLULOSE**

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 18, 2002.

Date: July 8, 2003

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Examiner: Henry, Michael C.

Group Art Unit: 1623

MAIL STOP NEW APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying PTO 1449 form pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98 to comply with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d) copies of the listed references are not enclosed because all listed references were either previously cited by or submitted to the U.S.P.T.O. in parent

application No. 09/943,650, filed August 31, 2001, which application is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120.

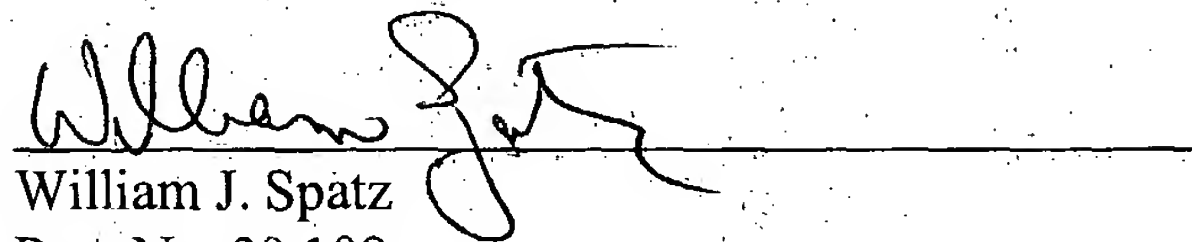
This Information Disclosure Statement is not a representation that the documents cited in the attached PTO-1449 form are considered most pertinent, or that a search has been undertaken, or that any of the cited documents is indeed prior art. The Examiner is invited to undertake an independent search.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and make of record the identified documents. Applicants further request that a copy of the Form PTO-1449, appropriately initialed by the Examiner, be returned to Applicants' attorney.

Pursuant to Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), an Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office if filed before the mailing date of the first Official Action on the merits. As this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a first Official Action on the merits, no fee is believed to be necessary for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any fee is found to be due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee, or credit any overpayment in such fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

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